(c) and (d) In case of theft/pilferage of coal, FIR is lodged with the police station and further action is initiated/taken by the local law and order authorities.

Fixing of coal royalty

†3048. SHRI SHREEGOPAL WAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2417 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 14th December, 2006 and state:

(a) whether any decision has been taken with regard to suggestions submitted by Chhattisgarh and other States in respect of fixing of royalty on the basis of market price;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay in taking the decision; and

(c) in what manner the losses being suffered by the States due to this would be compensated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) No, Sir, as the matter involve wide ranging inter-Governmental and inter-Ministerial consultations.

(c) Section 9 (3) of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act empowers the Central Government to enhance or reduce royalty rates in respect of any mineral as may be specified in the Notification: The proviso to Section 9 (3) of the Act prevents the Central Government from enhancing the rate of royalty in respect of any mineral more than once during any period of three years. The royalty rates are revised after taking into consideration the interests of all stakeholders and also the overall economic scenario of the country. As such, the question of losses does not arise.

Transportation of coal by ex-servicemen companies

3049. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal in some subsidiaries of Coal India Limited is being transported through the companies owned by the ex-servicemen;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the total transportation amount paid to these companies owned by the ex-servicemen during the financial year 2005-06;

(c) the approximate excess amount paid to the companies owned by the ex-servicemen by the Coal India Limited in comparison to the amount paid to civilian companies; and

(d) whether Ministry of Defence has reimbursed the said losses suffered by the Coal India Limited as the said scheme has been proposed by the Ministry of Defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. ESM companies are deployed in coal producing subsidiaries of Coal India Limited (CIL) except Eastern Coalfields Limited (ECL), Northern Coalfields Limited (NCL) and North Eastern Coalfields (NEC) for coal transportation work as per the Memorandum of Understanding between Director Genera! Resettlement (Ministry of Defence) and Coal India Limited.

(b) The total amount paid to the coal transportation companies owned ex-servicemen during the financial year 2005-06 is Rs. 536 88 crores.

(c) The rate of coal transportation for ESM company is fixed for different leads based on normative rates as per the recommendations of M/s Price Water House Coopers. However, in case of transportation done by civilian transport agency, the award of work is done through open tender and rate is recommended by Tender Committee and approved by the competent authority. As the payment made to ESM companies is based on normative rates, whereas payment made to civilian transport companies is based on tendered rate, the two rates are not exactly comparable. As such the question of excess payment made to ex-servicemen transport companies does not arise.

(d) In view of reply to (c) above, question does not arise.

Illegal mining of coal

3050. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of coal which is daily mined illegally and sent to different parts of the country on regular basis;